

LaVA Public Workshop
Questions and Responses from the Chat
06/09/2021

[6:15 PM] Marla Fox (Guest) "What is anticipated timeline for the SIR to be posted on the web?"

- [6:16 PM] Martin, Melissa -FS "Hello Marla. I believe that we are shooting for the end of June/early July. Thank you."
- [6:16 PM] Flores, Mary- FS "We are hoping mid to end of July."

[6:17 PM] Mark van Roojen (Guest) "I went to one of the pages linked today and it asked me to log in. And Joe just used the words "log in". As a civilian how do we get access."

- [6:18 PM] Martin, Melissa -FS, "Mark, I'm not exactly sure, but I will gather that information and get it to you no later than tomorrow."
- [6:20 PM] Campbell, Casey – FS "Mark, I believe Joe will speak to it, but it was being updated and will be live when the updates are complete. When it is live, log in won't be required."

[6:18 PM] Greg Hunter (Guest) "I do not want to ask questions that will be answered later, but will the analysis of the Mullen Fire impacts be linked to the Management Initiatives that were expressed in the LaVA process? Or is now a different analysis because the fire impact was different that the treatments envisioned?"

- [6:23 PM] Martin, Melissa -FS "Mr. Hunter - the purpose of the SIR is to assess the effects of the changed condition, i.e., fire, on the landscape and determine if those effects are still within the bounds of the effects disclosed in the Modified Final EIS. If those fire effects are significantly different than previously disclosed, a supplemental NEPA analysis would be required. If they are within the bounds, or at least not significantly different, then the project may proceed after the SIR is signed. Please let me know if that answer's your question."
- [6:27 PM] Greg Hunter (Guest) "Melissa, thank you and I guess as a follow on, will the Story Map be updated to reflect the Mullen Fire impact once the SIR is prepared and finalized?"

[6:23 PM] Marla Fox (Guest), "In terms of providing feedback, where should we look for site-specific details of the focus areas or treatment areas? Are the pre-treatment checklists the comprehensive site-specific information at this stage of planning?"

- [6:26 PM] Martin, Melissa -FS "Marla, yes, that is correct. The pre-treatment checklists and focus area information is located on the LaVA Project web page. Click here [Learn about our LaVA Story Map and Feedback Application](#) Please let me know if this answers your question."

[6:39 PM] Dennis Knight (Guest), "Will Story Map indicate when a treatment is likely to affect Inventoried Roadless Areas?"

- [6:41 PM] Martin, Melissa -FS, "Hello Dennis. Roadless areas were removed from the August 2020 decision. Therefore, none will be advanced through LaVA. If it is determined that there is a need for treatment in roadless areas, a separate NEPA analysis, including public engagement, would have to be undertaken."

[6:42 PM] Marla Fox (Guest), "When was the public feedback period for the focus areas that encompass the preliminary treatment areas now being proposed? Did I miss that?"

- [6:44 PM] Martin, Melissa -FS, "Hello again, Marla. The LaVA ROD, p. 43 - 44, includes an overview of projects that were advanced early. I will double-check the FEIS/MFEIS to see if they were described there."

[6:41 PM] Mark van Roojen (Guest), "What are the time frames for comment? And especially for the areas already identified but which we could not see since the map was offline?"

- [6:42 PM] Martin, Melissa -FS, "Hello again Mark. Today, I heard the end of June, but I will confirm that information in the meeting notes that will be sent out."
- [6:44 PM] Gonzales, Joseph – FS, "We will be extending the feedback time frame until the end of June. You are correct Melissa."

[6:45 PM] Marla Fox (Guest), "How does the Forest Service plan to adjust focus areas and treatment areas based on information gathered during the field validation phase? WildEarth Guardians' concerns has been and continues to be the lack of site-specific information to allow meaningful public comment at these earlier stages (i.e., ROD, identification of focus areas, and identification of treatment areas). Or is the assumption that focus areas and treatment areas will not change regardless of field validation information?"

- [6:49 PM] Martin, Melissa -FS, "Marla - as I understand the process, that information would be provided in the Implementation checklists that would be posted to the Story Map. It does not appear, per pp. 15 - 16 of Appendix A, that there is a formal public engagement opportunity at that phase."

[6:49 PM] Greg Hunter (Guest), "Just one more, maybe, clarification. If the SIR recognizes that X% of the objectives for X amount of acreage in the original decision, will that be subtracted from the amount of total acreage impacted? Will that impact the amount of road miles allowed under the decision be adjusted?"

- [6:53 PM] Martin, Melissa -FS, "Mr. Hunter - That is a good question. As I understand things, Appendix A includes decision triggers that ensure that resource thresholds will not be exceeded. Therefore, in theory, treatment acreages would be limited to stay within those thresholds. Hypothetically, resource thresholds could be approached after 50% implementation, 85% implementation, or 100% implementation. When thresholds are reached, treatments would either have to be deferred or perhaps changed to a different type of treatment to stay within those assigned thresholds. We will include a link to Appendix A in the notes. Mr. Hunter - that was a very quick and dirty response I provided. I would be happy to talk to you on the phone about LaVA if you are interested. I can be reached at melissa.m.martin@usda.gov."
- [7:00 PM] Greg Hunter (Guest), "Melissa thank you and I have done some review of Appendix A and I think I have wrapped my mind around the process. I was a little lost on Appendix A as the Accounting Units 2 letter designations in some of the Tables I could not readily track, but I was shut out of the Story Map to make the linkages. I found the Accounting Codes on Page 112 of the Decision, so I made the connection. I will contact you if I have additional confusion, but again I do not want to ask questions that are available if I only look a little harder."
- [7:01 PM] Martin, Melissa -FS, "Mr. Hunter - if a simple conversation could save you hours of search time, it would time well spent."

[6:50 PM] Marla Fox (Guest), "So there is no opportunity for public feedback based on the site-specific details of any project? None of the checklists include proposed units, roads, temporary roads, etc. When and where will the public see that information?"

- [6:57 PM] Martin, Melissa -FS, "Marla - I will need to re-read portions of Appendix A and provide a better response re: public feedback based on site-specific details of treatments. Please watch for a better response in the notes. In addition to Checklists, the Story Map should include more

detailed maps of the proposed treatments. Again, we will provide a more rigorous response in the meeting notes.”

- [7:08 PM] Martin, Melissa -FS, “Marla Fox, page 18 of Appendix A indicates that 'additional opportunities for public engagement will be provided if monitoring of individual treatments identifies a need to change any component of Appendix A.’”

[7:23 PM] Mark van Roojen (Guest), “Will people be able to see each other’s comments in the feedback part of the story map website? How then will people be able to respond to proposals that come late via the feedback?”

- Answered in the video

[7:23 PM] Marla Fox (Guest), “Is the Forest Service open to public identification of areas that should not be identified as focus areas or treatment areas? It seems like there is very little opportunity for adaptive feedback to actually change boundaries, especially lacking any site-specific information about conditions within each of these focus areas. We would be able to meaningfully comment based on the information gained in field validation, but there is not opportunity at that point.”

- [7:25 PM] Martin, Melissa -FS, “Hi Marla. Jason is providing a response. But, yes, you can identify areas that you believe are sensitive and should not receive treatment.”

[7:26 PM] Marla Fox (Guest), “Will the Forest Service provide notice when new pre-checklists become available, or when areas are moving to the next phase in the process?”

- [7:26 PM] Martin, Melissa -FS, “Marla, yes.”

[7:28 PM] Marla Fox (Guest), “In terms of seeing various public feedback, will the public need to submit FOIA requests?”

- [7:30 PM] Martin, Melissa -FS, “Marla, I think this was just answered, but you should be able to view other peoples' comments directly in Story Map, so a FOIA would not be necessary. Maybe I'm not understanding the question?”

[7:31 PM] Bedwell, Mary - FS, “We can share the publication of new checklists to our social media channels in addition to our public website. Thank you for that suggestion!”

[7:32 PM] Marla Fox (Guest), “Does the Forest Service accept feedback outside of the story map (i.e., in a letter that is not limited to 5,000 characters)?”

- Marla, yes. The form that was attached to the agenda is another way to provide feedback. There is also an opportunity to upload attachments in Story Map if your 'feedback' is more than what the system accepts.